



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District of Arizona*

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WOMAN INDICTED FOR SMUGGLING \$347,798 INTO THE UNITED STATES FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM

PHOENIX -- A federal grand jury in Phoenix returned a one-count indictment on Tuesday against Cassaundra Antonia Mitchell, 32, of Phoenix, AZ, for a violation of U.S. law prohibiting bulk cash smuggling.

The indictment alleges that on September 3, 2006, Mitchell smuggled a total of \$347,798 (\$163,836 and £99,925 British Pounds) into the United States from the United Kingdom. She was arrested after she arrived on a direct flight to Phoenix from London when secondary inspection of her luggage revealed a large amount of cash.

A conviction for bulk cash smuggling carries a maximum penalty of 5 years, a \$250,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, the Judge will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The prosecution is being handled by Mary Beth Pfister, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Ariz..

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-0867-PHX-SMM
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-195(Mitchell)

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